

LADY'S WOOD WALK

Take the Wickwar Road out of Chipping Sodbury to Mapleridge Cross Roads. Turn right and start your walk at the bridleway on the left approximately 400 metres from the junction.

The footpath goes in a north easterly direction to the corner of Lady's Wood. *The woodland along this walk was originally part of the great King's Wood. It is suggested that the old Domesday name for Yate - 'Geite', could have been referring to the gate of the King's Wood, supposedly once found in the Ridge Estate area of Yate.*

The type of woodland you are passing is described as ancient and unfortunately is now quite scarce. The woods have been managed by many for centuries and valued as a source of firewood, timber and grazing for stock since medieval days. These uses have ensured the continuity of the woodland.

Today the woods are valuable for wildlife because they are made up of mostly native plants which are important links in the food chain of many species. For example, nearly 300 species of insect, plant and birds are dependent upon the Oak tree. This contrasts sharply with the imported spruce or Christmas tree which is used in modern plantations and supports less than ten other species.

The ivy growing on the trees makes good nesting sites for birds and does little to harm the trees. Wood pigeons may be seen feeding on ivy berries in the winter. You may hear the laughter of a woodpecker or the twittering of a flock of long tailed tits as they search the tree canopies for insects. Jays can be distinguished by their bright plumage and at dusk the little owl gives an eerie call.



At dusk you may see bats leaving the daytime roosts in the trees to catch night flying beetles.

Follow the bridleway until you meet the cross roads at Vinney Lane and turn left into Lower Woods nature reserve. Follow the bridle path for a further 200 metres and turn left onto another bridle path. Follow the path to the next junction (about 100 metres away) and bear left to a hunting gate ahead and into a field.

Follow the field boundary on the right hand side to the end of the wood and carry on to two gates and a culvert for a stream.

Head up the slope towards Shortwood Farm, go through a gate into a green lane and follow the lane to the farm access road, crossing the stile into the opposite field. Continue in a straight line through three fields in the direction of Clayfield. Upon entering the farm lane take a sharp left turn and walk in a southerly direction towards Little Shortwood Farm.

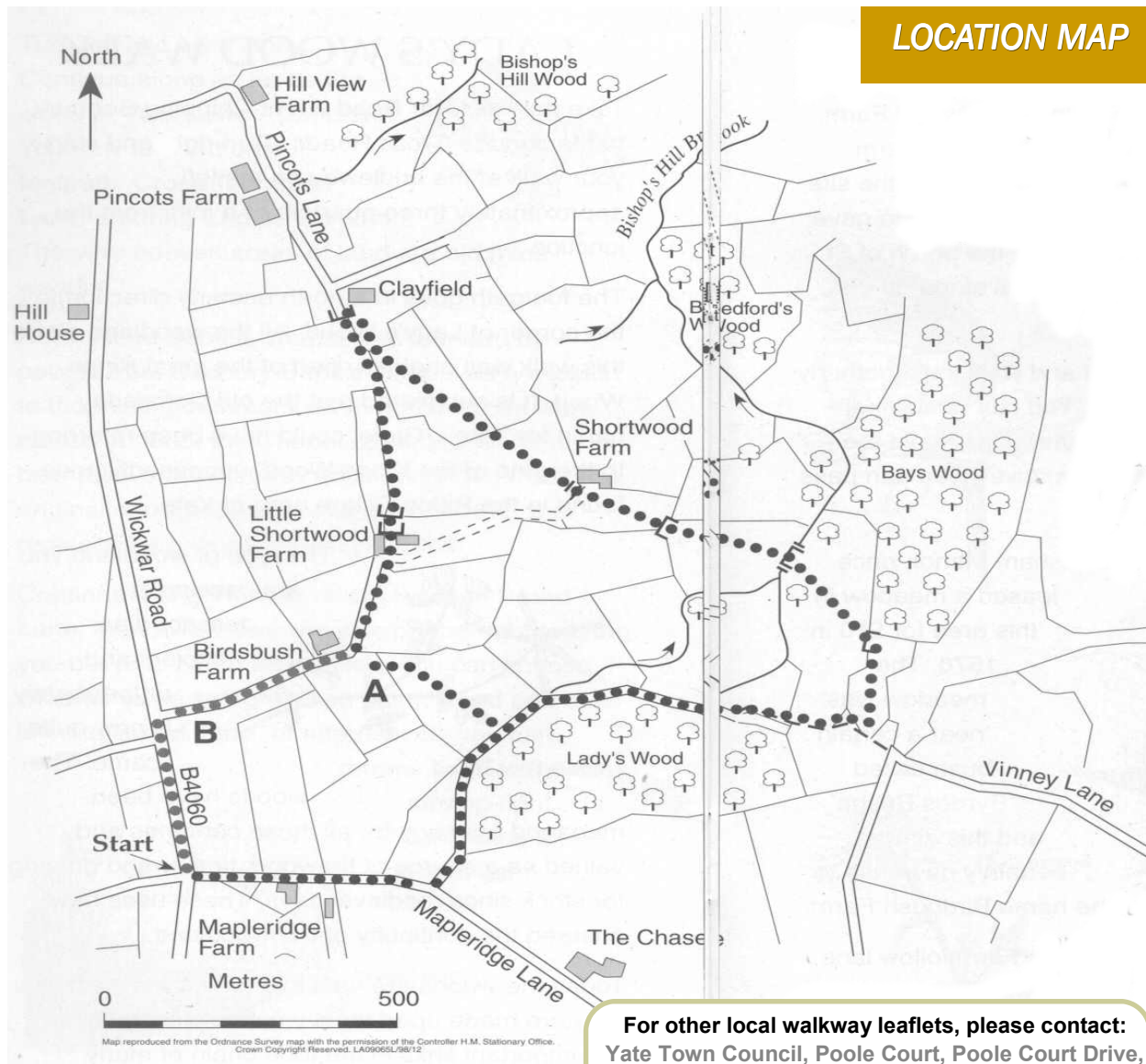
Keep to the left hand hedge and go through a gate in the corner of the field; now, follow the right hand hedge and after 100 metres go through the hedge via a hunting gate proceeding through Little Shortwood Farm to Birdbush Farm Lane.

At Birdbrush Farm you can turn left to take route A, as directed on the map, to rejoin the path at Lady's Wood; or continue on to the Wickwar Road, following route B.

Thomas Burnell, Lord of Brinsham Manor, once leased a meadow in the area for £10 in 1576. The meadow was 'near a certain bush called Byrdes Bushe' and this almost certainly gave rise to the name Birdbush Farm.

If taking route B past Birdbush Farm follow the lane to a 'T' junction, bear left onto Wickwar Road and left again to the start point.

LOCATION MAP



Yate Town Council Lady's Wood Walk

*This walk is approximately 4km and will take around 1.5 - 2 hours to complete.
Ordnance Survey map reference: Explorer 167.*



For other local walkway leaflets, please contact:
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